

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please delete paragraph 0002 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

Bathroom accessories, such as, for example, towel racks, towel rings, and tissue holders, are typically attached to a wall by a mounting assembly comprising a mounting bracket, a flange, a mounting post and one or more fasteners. Traditional mounting assemblies are attached by using multiple ~~fasters~~fasteners to attach the mounting bracket to the wall and then securing the mounting post, typically with an integral flange, to the mounting bracket with an additional fastener. Mounting bathroom accessories in this fashion can be very time consuming, especially if a whole collection needs to be mounted. In order to make it easier to mount bathroom accessories, some mounting assemblies have been developed with snap-together features. However, the snap-together features of the prior art ~~has~~have traditionally required elaborate features that require substantial alignment effort and complex manipulation of the components to effectuate the mounting of the assembly. Additionally, the snap-together features require interaction with the flange of the post, thereby requiring an integral flange. Since the flange is a decorative component, it is desirable to provide a mounting assembly that allows interchangeable flanges.

Please delete paragraph 0015 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

The post 30 is generally a decorative piece that snaps on over the body portion 42 of the mounting bracket 20. The post 30 includes a toroidal body portion 66 that has a inner diameter that is slightly larger than the outer diameter of the body portion 42 of the mounting bracket 20. The post 30 also includes a central cavity 67 ~~that covers~~into which the mounting bracket 20 is disposed thereby hiding the mounting bracket from view. The inner surface of the post 30 forms

a friction fit with ribs 48 of the mounting bracket 20. Furthermore, the inner surface of the post 30 contacts the camming surface 57 of the snap flange 45 forcing it inward and allowing the post to advance axially over the body portion 42 of the mounting bracket 20. When the post 30 is properly mounted, the snap recess 60 aligns with the extended portion 56 of the snap flange 45 and allows the snap flange 45 to unflex. Once the snap flange 45 unflexes, the post 30 is snapped into position on the mounting bracket 20. The snap recess 60 may penetrate through the post 30, as shown in Figure 2, or it may only penetrate partially through the post. When the snap recess ~~penetrate~~penetrates through the post 30, the post can be removed by applying radial force to the extended portion 56 of the snap flange 45 while applying axial force on the post.

Please delete paragraph 0016 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

To mount an accessory with the mounting assembly 10 of the present invention, the mounting bracket 20 is secured to the wall, or other point of attachment, with the fastener 35. Generally, the fastener 35 can be attached to the mounting bracket 20 prior to mounting to allow for easier assembly. The flange 25 is then placed over the body portion 42 of the mounting bracket 20 and snapped into position by the retaining flange 47. The post 30 is then slid over the body portion 42 of the mounting bracket 20 and snapped into position by the snap flange 45. In order to snap the post 30 into position, the snap flange 45 must be aligned with the snap recess 60 on the post 30. This can either be done while the post 30 is being slid into position on the mounting bracket 20, or can be done by rotating the post 30 about the mounting bracket 20 once positioned on the mounting bracket 20. In one method of method of mounting an accessory, the fastener 35, the mounting bracket 20, and the flange 25 are preassembled. This allows an assembler to simply anchor the fastener, mounting bracket and flange subassembly and then push the post 30 on over the subassembly to snap it into position and then move on to the next

mounting assembly. Using this method of mounting greatly reduces the time required to assemble and mount an accessory.